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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
ACTING AS THE DESIGNATED / ELECTIVE OFFICE

In re: Patent application of Auer et al.

For: "Method for Processing Iron-laden Spent Sulfuric Acid"

International Application No.: PCT/EP2004/010992

International Filing Date: October 1, 2004

Priority Date: October 6, 2003

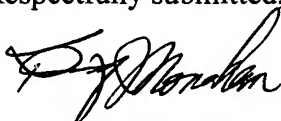
Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**Preliminary Amendment**

Please enter the following amendments, without prejudice, in the above-identified patent application, prior to calculating the filing fee.

In the Claims

The amendments to the claims are presented in Exhibit A, attached hereto and entitled "Listing and Amendments to the Claims For Preliminary Amendment".

Respectfully submitted,

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